

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

H.B. 1305

Relating to Mutual Assistance Agreement

Tuesday, February 5, 2019
8:45 am, Agenda Item #4
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

Paul A. Nakagawa
Superintendent, T&D Infrastructure
Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc.

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Paul Nakagawa and I am testifying on behalf of Hawaiian Electric Company and its subsidiary utilities Maui Electric Company and Hawai'i Electric Light Company (collectively, "Hawaiian Electric") **in strong support** of H.B. 1305, Relating to Mutual Assistance Agreement.

H.B. 1305 will ensure that in times of a natural disaster or emergency, qualified utility workers from out-of-state utilities can assist the States' electric utilities with safe and timely restoration efforts. These out-of-state utilities are signatory to a mutual aid agreement between multiple utility companies across the United States and Canada, when in time of necessity, the member utilities will make their employees available to utilities in need to assist with timely restoration efforts. Existing state and local resources may easily be exceeded in times of a major natural disaster or emergency, and therefore require outside assistance to ensure safe and timely restoration of critical infrastructure with qualified and experienced utility workers. This agreement specifically provides that the mobilized out-of-state utility workers who provide assistance will

remain employees of their home utility, and will return to their home state upon completion of their restoration support.

Should H.B. 1305 become law, in time of emergency or a major natural disaster, the state's electric utilities will not be hindered or prevented from requesting help from out-of-state utility workers for assistance; furthermore, visiting out of state utility workers will avoid facing violations of the State's contractors' licensing laws, electricians' licensing requirements, and commercial drivers' licensing requirements while working in Hawaii, as these laws in its current form cannot be complied with in the period of time required to mobilize out-of-state utility workers to support our restoration efforts during an emergency.

Accordingly, the Hawaiian Electric Companies strongly supports H.B. 1305.
Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

HB-1305

Submitted on: 2/1/2019 6:47:57 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/5/2019 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Karen Winslow	Hawaii Farmers Union	Support	No

Comments:

HB-1305

Submitted on: 2/2/2019 10:25:02 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/5/2019 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Erica Scott	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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HB-1305

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 3:56:05 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/5/2019 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i	Support	No

Comments: